CYCK
NOVYNY
UKRAINIAN CANADIAN STUDENTS' UNION
April 1993

CYCK Takes a Stand on TIME Article

Ukrainians all across Canada are angered by a recent article in TIME magazine on rape in war. A photograph accompanying the article is the reason for this reaction.

CYCK has endorsed a project initiated by an eastern Ukrainian Students' Club which simply entails sending a postcard to TIME magazine expressing the sender's outrage.

The postcard is addressed to Jason McManus, editor-in-chief of TIME and reads:

"I am outraged and appalled by TIME Magazine's 'tradition of atrocity' of Ukraine-bashing, and deeply offended by the caption accompanying the photograph of a 1945 rape victim on page 28 of the February 22, 1993 issue of TIME Magazine (vol. 141, no. 8). The portrayal of the rape of Jewish women as a Ukrainian 'tradition' is vile, demeaning, and shows bias, prejudice, and a severe lack of judgement on the part of TIME and its editors. Furthermore, Lvov (sic), the modern political center of western Ukraine is not a Polish city, nor was it ever the site of 'tradition rapes'. On the contrary, Ukrainians in 1945 were themselves the targets of oppression and persecution.

The Ukrainian community demands and deserves a formal, public apology for this atrocity, and for TIME Magazine's misrepresentation and degradation of Ukraine and its people.

I, along with other members of the Ukrainian-Canadian community will be closely monitoring TIME Magazine in the future, and expect to see TIME reporting with greater historical accuracy concerning Ukraine, and without using offensive and unfounded ethnic stereotypes."

For more information regarding this project, contact the Ukrainian Students' Club in your area.

Traditions of atrocity: A Jewish girl raped by Ukrainians in Lvov, Poland, in 1945

TIME Magazine, February 22, 1993, page 28.

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WORDS OF WISDOM...

Well, another school year has come to an end. And with it, I would like to congratulate all the Ukrainian Students' Clubs, Associations and Societies at Canadian Universities for the success they have achieved this past year. If you think about it, just having a Ukrainian Students' Club in existence at a Canadian University is a success in itself. Even if a club is not that active, just the existence of the organization at a University is very important.

The club exists for people to learn about and participate in. The club provides an opportunity for people to discover it and do what they want with it. As long as there is a club, there is a chance that someone might come along and revive the activities of the club, furthering the existence of that club. So what I am saying is that a club does not have to be active to be successful. Being active helps to strengthen the club, but doesn't necessarily make it more successful than another club. The assimilation process continues, but the existence of clubs at Canadian Universities is what continues the tradition of Ukrainian-Canadian students.

The tradition that I refer to is the tradition of being concerned and informed of Ukrainian-Canadian issues. Also, the tradition of partying with fellow students of the same Ukrainian background. Educating ourselves involves the sharing of information. We must strive to continue communicating with each other and expressing our ideas. Promoting the activities of your club is very important to *CYCK*. For instance, informing other clubs of your club's activities may motivate them to do similar projects. Also, informing organizations (external to *CYCK*) of your activities promotes *CYCK*. One of the great things of *CYCK* is that your club can tap into the *CYCK* network and get support from other clubs at other universities on issues concerning your club, which in effect, concern *CYCK*. Working together gets more people involved and more people learning. This is what *CYCK* is all about. The more people that are involved learning and doing projects, the stronger *CYCK* becomes. The resolutions passed at the 40th *CYCK* Congress will need your time and support. I look forward to working with all of you in the future, and I wish you the best of luck on your exams.

Regards,
Michael Stepaniuk
CYCK National President

CYCK MESSAGES...

Executive meeting...

The *CYCK* executive had its first meeting on March 21. Due to the distance problem, the four executive members who took part had a teleconference of sorts.

Mike Stepaniuk and Mike Nychyk were in Saskatoon and Mike Kornylo and Kathy Labach (I'm thinking of changing my name to Mike!!) were in Edmonton.

This system seems to work well and hopefully next time we'll be able to get more of the executive involved.

The minutes will be sent out to clubs soon, but some of the topics we talked about are the TIME magazine issue, a *CYCK* informational pamphlet and filling the vacant executive positions.

The next meeting will be on April 25 at 8:00 p.m., so if you or your club have any concerns, please send them to any of the executive members who will be sure to bring them up at this meeting.

Executive postions...

As was noted in the last issue of Novyny, there are still three positions open on the *CYCK* executive.

Rumor has it though, that two dedicated *YCK* members have expressed interest in the positions of Secretary and Director of External Relations.

Pending executive approval, the only position left open will be that of Fundraiser. If you know of anyone who would qualify for this position, please contact Mike Stepaniuk as soon as possible.

'TIS THE SEASON...

Yes, that time of year is here again, Ukrainian festival season!!

From coast to coast, Ukrainians and Ukrainian wannabees gather to eat varenyky, polka 'til they drop and consume the nectar of the gods!

Here's a challenge for all of you festival goers - when festival season is over, why don't you do the Siskel & Ebert thing for Novyny and send us your festival reviews!

It would be a hoot and maybe you could call it a freelance assignment or something and get extra time off work...!

It was just a thought. So here's a list of the upcoming Ukrainian festivals and when they're on - see you on the festival circuit!!

➥ **Vesna Festival**
May 7 & 8, Saskatoon, Sask.

➥ **Pysanka Festival**
July 1-4, Vegreville, Alta.

➥ **Dauphin Festival**
July 29-Aug. 1, Dauphin,Man.

E - MAIL...

Here are a few e-mail addresses to connect you with clubs across the country. Everyone, please send in yours as you get accounts...

tbulba@utcc.utoronto.ca
E24NEMISH@sask.usask.ca
roman@csualberta.ca

WHAT'S UP IN YCK ...

Now here's the way this works - you send me information on what your club is doing and I print it. This is a great way to let the rest of the country know what you're doing, so take advantage of it.

Don't worry about writing a major article or anything, just send in the information (we accept point form notes).

Thanks to the following clubs for sending in their info!

U of A

On March 12, the new executive was elected. It is as follows: **President - Orysia Yakymchuk; Vice-President - Volodymyr Boychuk; External Vice-President - Luka Struk; Financial Director - Tanya Haluk; Events Coordinators - Trish Dmytriw & Nikki Odowichuk; PR & Communications Director - Kristin Shandro; Member-at-large - Matthew Danchuk; and Past-President - Lorne Filewych.**

An amendment was made for the new executive to take over office at the beginning of May. The executive plans to be active over the summer as they will visit local and rural high school Ukrainian classes to promote the Ukrainian Students' Society. The U.S.S. will also offer orientation of the University of Alberta campus for first-year students.

A BBQ and baseball tournament is being planned for this summer. (you're all invited!!)

Congratulations go out to the past executive for a job well done and to **Terence Filewych** (ex-president of U.S.S.) on his newly elected position as the **U of A Students' Union President!!**

Concordia

The Concordia Ukrainian Students' Union is proud to announce that they are back on their feet, after a prolonged period of, well...let's say 'undesirable feedback'. (It's kind of like being in a rehab) But, everything's coming up roses now and our 'strange' executive is already gearing up for an even better year.

Since it's nearing exam time there's not much else going around the club office except the standard tension breakers, frequent shrieks and nervous breakdowns. In the meantime, we are still working on a project involving ties with Ukraine. The club is establishing contact with the Odessa Management School with the intentions of supplying them with badly needed textbooks and other academic resources.

GET CULTURED...

Keep those notes from your classes guys! You never know when you'll be the editor of some cool newsletter and those notes will come in real handy!!

I'm talking about a Ukrainian Folklore class I took eons ago at the U of S during which we learned all kinds of neat stuff about Spring traditions.

For instance, did you know the two ancient divinities associated with spring were Maya and Yarylo. Maya was personified as a beautiful, young girl dressed in white with a wreath of flowers on her head. Of course, Yarylo was perceived as a handsome young man, and wherever he walked nature would come alive.

Now we all know that *Verbna Nedillya* (Pussywillow Sunday) is when pussywillows are blessed in church and you tap people with the branches as you recite a verse...

Did you know that pussywillows were considered to be magic because they bud so early and because each branch can become a tree?? The bark and leaves were used in folk medicine and some branches would be planted by springs or wells to ensure pure water.
During the week prior to Easter it was also considered good luck for girls to bathe in rivers or lakes before dawn. (I wonder what male convinced them of that!! - joke!)
The Easter service began at midnight and around 3 a.m. the baskets would be blessed. A bonfire (*zhyvyj vohon'*) would be started on church property by the young men of the village. It was fuelled by wood found on the farms of all the eligible, young girls.

After the baskets were blessed the food was brought home and had to be consumed before sunrise. At dawn the young boys would visit all the houses singing special greeting songs.

The church bells would ring all day as people gathered in the church yard and partook in Easter festivities. All the songs and games of the day were from pre-Christian times.

Young girls danced and sang songs (*hahilky, vesnianky*) as the young men would perform feats of strength and take part in athletic competition.

Children played games with their colored eggs, tapping their opponents egg trying to crack it without cracking their own.

The day ended off with evening socials and dances. The next morning though, the boys would wake up early to go to the homes of the girls they liked and douse them with water (*oblyvanyj ponedilok*).

Now wasn't that interesting?! Remember, this information is from the notes of a class I took a few years ago, so if its not 100 % accurate, I'm really sorry!!

IN THE NEWS...

See "Charest rejects request to honour interned Ukrainians" March 30, 1993 Edmonton Journal

"...the confiscation of assets and jailing of 5,000 Ukrainian Canadians and other ethnic groups during the war was "not, in and of itself, of national historic significance..."

This statement by Minister Jean Charest and the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, concerning the internment camps during World War I are dangerously close to the philosophy of Nazi and Soviet officials who believed that a lie repeated often enough becomes the truth. Statements such as this tarnish the image of Canada. And, if neglected, they endanger not only the international prestige of our country, but also its future stability. The only way we can prevent this from happening is acknowledging Canada's trespasses and commemorating the victims.
A nation without a clear idea of its past has no future.

- U of A U.S.S.

The following is an excerpt from an editorial found in the Edmonton Journal (Wednesday, March 31, 1993) that is of interest to all of us...

Charest should back down on Ukrainian request

Environment Minister Jean Charest betrays an unusual arrogance when he tells Ukrainian-Canadians that the internment of immigrants during the First World War is "not, in and of itself, of national historic significance."

Does Charest own history? What would he think if the descendants of Alberta's first Ukrainian settlers told him that a certain battle on the Plains of Abraham had no national historic significance? Or that Quebec shouldn't bother to erect monuments to Louis Joseph Papineau because the famous patriot lost the nationalist fight of 1837?

Charest might reply: "These historic events may not be significant to you on the Prairies, but to my family, and my province, they remain important."

He should look at the request from the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association in the same light. If First World War detainees, and their families, want historical markers at 25 prison sites and one interpretative centre at the Castle Mountain site in Banff National Park, they have already decided on the significance of the imprisonment. It is significant to them.

The request is hardly excessive. Charest could easily oblige, but instead chose to inform the Ukrainian group, rather abruptly, in February that the installation of a simple plaque at the Castle Mountain work camp was "precluded." By whom? On what grounds?

Canadian history doesn't belong to one cabinet minister any more than it belongs to the English and French colonial gentry who populated our school textbooks for generations. Some myths about Canada still need to be punctured: primarily, the nostalgic notion that this country was settled peacefully by bucolic farmers who spoke respectfully to one another in just two languages.

Canadians of all backgrounds need an occasional reality check. If the descendants of Ukrainian detainees, or indentured Chinese railway workers, or Japanese-Canadian fishermen, or aboriginal people still fighting for lost land, together force this country to abandon the blinders of a *Road to Avonlea* view of Canadian history, well, so much the better...

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION ...

The Refugee Experience: Ukrainian Displaced Persons After World War II

The twenty-five contributions to this volume present a detailed anyalysis of the social conditions that shaped the Ukrainian displaced persons, with particular attention to the five-year period that many of them spent in internationally organized resettlement camps. The essays are grouped in nine sections covering the most important facets of the displaced persons' lives. These include an assessment of the Ukrainian DP phenomenon in the context of Ukrainian history, and its demographic dimensions; an examination of the DP camp economic and organizational structure; the role of political parties and nationalist ideology; the activities of the Catholic and Orthodox churches; the establishment of schools and women's organizations; the proliferation of literary, cultural and scholarly activity; Soviet efforts at repatriation and the Allied response; the resettlement of Ukrainians in the USA and Canada; and a sociological and psychological interpretation of the DP experience. Four contributions by eyewitnesses round out the volume.

The volume is edited by Wsevolod W. Isajiw, Robert F. Harney, professor in Ethnic, Immigration and Pluralism Studies, University of Toronto; Dr. Yury Boshyk, professor at the International Institute for Management Development, Lausanne, Switzerland; and Roman Senkus, senior manuscript editor of the *Encyclopedia of Ukraine.*

The book is available from:

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NEXT ISSUE...

Well, it looks like this thing is going to work out after all! The deadline for the next issue of Novyny is **May 1**, but I can only accept faxes until April 23.

The issue after that won't be out until July, so if you have some important info, get it in early!!